

THE BRITISH TARIFF—ITS PROTECTIVE FEATURES.

The British Consolidated Customs Act of 1860 charges import duties upon twenty-six articles of commerce, counting them by their general headings, or generic denominations. All the remainder of their imports of foreign goods, amounting to about one thousand items, which stand in the tariff tables, are made duty free. That is, free from what are usually called customs or import duties; but they are not subject, the free as well as the duty-paying, to certain charges, small in the particular, but, in the aggregate of an immense commerce, amounting to a very large sum.

The duties imposed by the act upon ten of these articles—hops, beer, malt, paper, vinegar, cards, dice, chicory, essence of spruce, and gold and silver plate—are about equivalent to the tax levied by the internal revenue on like articles manufactured or produced in the United Kingdom. Several others of the dutiable imports are very lightly charged, and yield trifling amounts to the revenue, but are included in the duty-paying lists on account of the relation they bear to domestic articles which contribute largely to the revenue; and, as the authorities are wont to say, "should, for this reason, be classed with those that are taxed merely for the purpose of equalizing the Government burdens upon foreign and domestic commodities of the same kinds."

A phrase intended to cover the fact that all such imports are as purely protective of the domestic articles as if they were laid on for any other reason assigned. They have the effect of carrying up the prices of the foreign articles to such rates as give the competing domestic products, with which they are said to be thus equalized, the actual possession of the home market. Now this is all that is meant by protection anywhere. Equalized may be a better word, but protection is the effect, and it is the intention also. As an instance of the care that the British Government takes to equalize—that is, protect—her home products, by duties upon foreign competing articles, up to, and if need be, above, the amount of the inland revenue rates, we have the fact that the Government asked and obtained a supplementary convention with France on the 20th of February, 1860, to allow an alteration in the Cobden treaty of the 23d of January previously, by which French brandies and spirits were to be surcharged five pence per gallon over and above the excise upon the home-made spirits.

Thus it appears that free trade in England does not mean the surrender of her home market to the foreigner, as to any article which she can produce or manufacture for herself, but means only the remission of all such customs charges as are not required for the protection of domestic industry, and the retention of all that are required. This policy and this principle rule every article in the duty-paying list of the English tariff which is catalogued as under duties intended merely to counteract the excise and inland revenue charges upon similar commodities. On all these articles, the import duties are small, but large enough to answer the intention.

But there remain fourteen other articles, which in the year 1859 yielded twenty-four millions sterling, being only one million and sixty thousand pounds short of the customs receipts from all sources; and these, say the exponents of the system, "are retained solely for fiscal purposes," and of course have no protection features in them. Let us see:

The duties imposed upon raw sugar, unmanufactured tobacco, spices, coffee, and tea, which are neither products of Great Britain, nor act as substitutes for, or in any way compete with, her native products in her own markets, are purely a tax upon consumption, and are in effect excise duties collected at the Custom-House.

These articles afford an immense revenue, and, at first sight, the duties charged upon them look as if they were laid only for fiscal purposes, and had no reference whatever to the protection of domestic labor and capital; but on looking closely into these duty-paying articles we detect protection, simple, unadorned, and unmitigated, to an extent that may well surprise those who receive the late modifications in the British commercial system as a model free-trade policy.

Let us now examine in detail the chief of those articles which yield a hundred millions of dollars a year to the British revenue, and some of those which yield less, more generally.

Sugar, tobacco, and foreign spirits from grain, are the most important imports of this class. These three articles produced thirteen and a half millions sterling to the revenue in 1857—about \$65,000,000. Now, how much of this vast sum was in effect, as well as in intention, protective of British manufactures from raw materials, which must be manufactured before they find their way into their ultimate market, or enter into consumption?

Under the tariff of 1860, now in force, Sugars are charged with the following import duties, viz:

Muscovado, brown or raw, per cwt. 12s. 6d.—63.95
Brown, refined, per cwt. 10s. 6d.—53.55
White, refined, per cwt. 10s. 6d.—53.55
Refined, per cwt. 10s. 6d.—53.55

The duty of 12 shillings 6 pence upon the hundred-weight of raw sugar is, of course, simply a tax upon the British consumer, and must be subtracted from the several rates charged upon the manufactured, to ascertain the amount of protection afforded to the British manufacturer.

Guided by an estimate lately made by the Board of Inland Revenue, we will assume that 60 per cent of the import is manufactured in Great Britain into the three grades of refined sugars distinguished in the tariff, in about equal proportions.

The whole quantity entered for consumption in 1858 was 8,490,256 cwt. Sixty per cent amounts to 5,094,156 cwt. Allowing 3-13 of this quantity for loss in the process of clarification, gives a product of

Brown Cane. 1,500,000 cwt., surcharged 3s. 4d. \$75,000
White Cane. 1,500,000 cwt., surcharged 3s. 4d. \$75,000
Refined. 2,094,156 cwt., surcharged 0s. \$0.00

Amount of protection on clarified sugar. \$150,000
In like manner we estimate the protective duties afforded to the manufacture of tobacco, cigars, and snuff.

The unmanufactured tobacco entered for con-

sumption in 1858 was 33,669,334 pounds. The import duty charged upon unmanufactured tobacco is three shillings, with five per cent additional, or 3s. 14-5d. per pound. Tobacco manufactured for smoking and chewing and into cigars is charged with an import duty of nine shillings and five per cent additional, or 9s. 2-6d. Snuff is charged six shillings with five per cent additional, or 6s. 3-3d.

Assuming that two-thirds of the total imports are manufactured into smoking and chewing tobacco and cigars, and but one-twentieth into snuff, the protective duties would stand thus:

22,446,222 pounds chewing tobacco. Per pound. \$1.019129
4,489,111 pounds snuff. Per pound. \$1.451145
1,634,001 pounds snuff. Per pound. \$1.451145

Amount of protection upon manufactured tobacco. \$27,264,265
Again: The quantity of spirits consumed in the United Kingdom, in 1858, was 23,686,671 gallons. Upon the domestic article, according to the statement made in the Anglo-French treaty, dated February 28, 1860, the excise and other charges amount to 8s. 5d. per gallon. The tariff duty upon foreign spirits is 10s. 5d. per gallon. Deducting 2,000,000 gallons French spirits consumed per annum, which are admitted at, or a little over, the excise rate, we have, 21,686,671 gallons surcharged 2s.—\$2,168,067. To these import duties upon sugar, tobacco, and spirits must be added:

The "extra rate" upon sugar of 2s. upon every 100 lbs. duty. \$1,634,001
The duty of 10s. 5d. upon every 100 lbs. duty. \$1,634,001
The duty of 10s. 5d. upon every 100 lbs. duty. \$1,634,001
The duty of 10s. 5d. upon every 100 lbs. duty. \$1,634,001
The duty of 10s. 5d. upon every 100 lbs. duty. \$1,634,001

Aggregate of extra rate and unit of duty duties upon unmanufactured sugar, tobacco and spirits. \$10,114,265
Aggregate of Customs duties upon the same. \$10,114,265
Total charges upon these quantities of sugar, tobacco and spirits. \$20,228,530

Here we have defensive duties levied at, if not levied upon, these three articles of British consumption, for the protection of the domestic product, amounting to above ten millions sterling, or nearly fifty million of dollars per annum. Add to these the amounts of duty made to stand guard over the home market against foreign beer, paper, cards, chicory, dice, vinegar, plate, hats, books, mill-boards, embroidery, musical instruments, linens, and a number of other articles which compete with similar articles of British manufacture, and above twenty millions sterling would be the result. The ale and beer alone, made and consumed in the United Kingdom annually, amounts to seven millions of barrels, the duty levied upon foreign ales and beers being £1 per barrel. The excise and other charges upon the material and manufacture and sale being about twelve shillings per barrel, gives a protective duty of eight shillings per barrel, amounting to £2,800,000; which shows the reasonableness of the estimate we adopt for the purpose of sparing the labor of calculation.

On this showing, the British Government manages to protect her home manufactures in her home markets, by customs duties which resist foreign importation to the amount of above thirty millions sterling, or nearly one hundred and fifty millions of dollars per annum.

Is this free-trade? The pretense is an imposture. England has set free all of a thousand articles which she imports, except about fifty-six, or, counted by their genuine denominations, twenty-six. But has she abandoned one item of all her multifarious manufactures to the danger of competition from abroad? Not one.

England began six hundred years ago to protect her native industry in the mechanic arts, by duties, prohibitions, and penalties, some of them atrocious in their severity, such as cutting off the left hand of the importer of foreign woollens, under Elizabeth, and the imprisonment of the whole crew of the vessel employed, under Charles II. She relaxed this system, little by little, as she secured its advantages, till in 1819 she contented herself with a duty of £7 15s. 6d. a ton on bar iron, when she was making it at £3 per ton cheaper than the cheapest of her foreign rivals! In 1813, when she had attained a still better command of her own market, she reduced the duty to £1 per ton. And in 1860, being able to make it lower than all the world for home consumption, and at any price you please for foreign trade, she set it free. As safely as Massachusetts might treat the ice of the tropics, and for the same reason, protection is simply defense. A rough-shod donkey needs none in the poultry yard, and he may, if he please, proclaim a free dance to all the chickens. But where is the magnanimity! Free competition at an even chance means something; but when we see England putting on what her attorneys call countervailing imports to dyke out every species of commodity that might otherwise get possession of her home market, we are not deluded by her long list of free goods, against which she needs as little protection as the Gulf States needs it against foreign raw cotton.

Count de Mirry, Minister of France, said, happily, when the late Anglo-French commercial treaty was under negotiation, that "Protection is the route to free trade." Just so far as England reaches supremacy and safety in manufactures she adopts the system—not a step further. We want no better, no more unvarying example than hers; but we could not have a worse counselor.

Mr. Cobden did the best he could in the treaty with Louis Napoleon last year, helped him to clear the French tariff of rubbish and iniquity, was overruled, and put his hand to the very best protective tariff in existence, as we showed in a former article. That treaty bars England's commercial invasion of France completely. She is checkmated in the Northern States of this Union by the Morrill tariff; and by the blockade of our Southern ports, the Slave States are taught the necessity of a self-supplying system of labor. The quick economy of the South will never be listened to there again. All Germany is barred against her imports by the Zollverein; Belgium already does all her own work; Spain has made up her mind to redeem herself; Russia has an old habit of excluding her. Nothing is left in Europe or America but Turkey and Portugal, whom she has already exhausted, and her own colonies, for her to prey upon; and, of course, she is louder than ever in repression of her own principles, and in reputation of her own policy, when she finds them working everywhere so effectually against her.

We need scarcely explain that by seven millions sterling of protective duties arrayed against the importation of manufactured tobacco, and twenty-three millions aimed at the remainder of the competing articles of foreign commerce, we do not mean that England collects at her ports that amount upon her imports annually. We mean that thirty millions of threatened duties lie on the watch against the invasion of foreign fabrics, thrown out as defenses for foreigners to overcome before they can enter her home markets with their commodities. Absolute prohibition is protection, though no duties are levied. All customs, imposts and charges are protective, for whatever purpose they are applied, except where they are merely excises, or inland taxes, on consumption, collected for convenience at the Custom-House. England actually collects annually about 23 millions from customs; only about one million of this sum being raised from competing manufactures; so effectually do her manufacturing superiority, and this rear-guard of thirty millions of duties lying in wait for the enemy, protect her own industrial freedom, while she is preaching free trade to the rest of the world, whom she is endeavoring to reduce to commercial and industrial vassalage by adopting it.

"A LIVING-MACHINE."

TO THE PUBLIC.

Where it not that there are those who do not know the writer of the article in Tuesday's TRIBUNE with the above title, and who would be led, by the use of the *nom de plume* of an eminent clergyman, to suppose that it came from him, and thus the children for whom we live and labor be injured, we would take no notice of it. Knowing that the history of the author is full of that which no one would covet, and that he is serving those who have long despised him, we pity him.

In regard to the fidelity with which the Fourth Ward Mission was conducted, the Board, composed of twenty-seven prominent pastors and business men in this city, are fully competent to vindicate themselves. For the fidelity of my course, as the Superintendent, I have simply to refer to their approval, as shown by my unanimous reappointment.

My course as Superintendent of the Howard Mission is so intimately and thoroughly known to the public, and its success so unprecedented in this department of Christian labor, and the character of the gentlemen composing the Advisory Committee so far above suspicion, that self-interest almost forbids my replying to the article. "These things are not done in a corner."

At no time during the last eight years have so many ministers and business men earnestly cooperated with me as during the past year. Thousands have visited the Mission—have seen for themselves, and have returned to their homes; and their large contributions show how strong is their confidence and how deeply interested they have become. We have received more than 900 children during the last few months, who have been washed, fed, clothed, and taught, and who are now being sent to homes where they will be loved and cared for.

More than 100 boxes, and many packages of clothing, shoes and bedding; more than 100 barrels and sacks of flour; more than 50 barrels of corn meal; several barrels of hemmy and cracked wheat; several barrels of pork and beef; more than 50 barrels of potatoes; 15 to 20 tubs of butter, and large quantities of other things, have been most economically used in the Mission, or distributed among the poor.

When we have had an over supply of any one thing, we have exchanged the surplus for something which we had not enough. Thinking it more judicious to give bread than flour to the poor, we made arrangements with Messrs. Becker & Brother, Teaneck Hall, and the Aerated Bread Bakery, to take our flour at the highest market price, and pay us in bread at a large discount. We not only consider such a course honorable, but think it shows a little common sense.

The large contributions, and the kindness of railroads in forwarding them, have been promptly and gratefully acknowledged in the "Little Wanderer's Friend," and other publications.

As our work has increased, we have increased the number of laborers. Part of the time we have employed four teachers and four visitors, besides the matron, janitor, and three servants. Our work has so increased that we have taken the whole of the new building, No. 25 New Bowery, running easterly through to James street. This gives us a fine large chapel and school-room, a dining-room that will accommodate 200, and several more good bedrooms.

Hundreds of ladies connected with various churches in New-York and Brooklyn have visited us, to add in the wardrobe and other departments of our work. Every department of this work has been open to inspection, and the work kept fully and constantly before the public. We repeat the request we have made thousands of times: "Come and see if these things are true."

Come at any time. Come and make yourself thoroughly acquainted with the Mission in all its departments. Learn its history—examine the "method of running the machine," and you will return feeling that this is truly not a dead but a "living machine," and that all the parts are well adjusted and working remarkably well.

WM. C. VAN KATIE, Supt.
Howard Mission, No. 25 New-Bowery, New-York, April 30, 1862.

AN HEIR OF THE IRISH PEASANT IS THE POLICE COLLECTOR FOR CRIME.—This morning a boy about 14 years of age, named Charles Beresford, was arrested and taken before the Police Magistrate, charged with having stolen goods from a house in Canada, Major P. tried to obtain possession of this boy, his son, but he did not succeed, though a large sum was offered for his delivery in Canada. He did not appear, and a special pay like wife, living with Gallagher, an annual stipend, but of late years that has been stopped, it is said, and her only reliance has been upon the man with whom she fled from the house of her husband. As a consequence she has lived in reduced circumstances. Beresford was an old man when he married this woman, and he is now beyond of seventy, while she is less than forty. His name held the peage, but the major was the heir, and this boy now under arrest, being his oldest son, would follow him, and will retain to the estate and peage, even though he remains here till the death of his father.

CHIEF CLERK OF THE COURT.—Judge Emory visited at the Court House, the Recorder of the County, May 5, 1862, at 10 o'clock a. m., to try the Equity Cases reserved from the late Queens County Circuit.

THE BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE AND SLAVERY.

THE BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE, now in session at Oswego, accepted the following resolutions concerning

FROM WASHINGTON.

Emancipation in the District—Slaveholding in Maryland.

The demoralizing influence of slavery upon human character has often been enlarged upon, but only one who has been an eye witness can fully appreciate it. It makes a common wreck of manly honor and of womanly delicacy. Something of this I have seen in more Southern communities, and more I have read and heard, which I believed, because of what I had seen. But the unmitigated meanness, the coarse brutality which the institution engenders, were never shown in a more repulsive light than in this District since the success of emancipation became assured. The falsity of the pretence of mutual attachment between the slave and the master was also thoroughly exposed. Men and women whose unrepentant service had for years supported in luxury and idleness those who claimed them as property, were conveyed from the city by artifice or by force.

Some whom I have often heard speak with hypocritical tenderness of their servants, and whom from their conversation one would suppose to be actuated only by a regard for the helplessness and inability of the negro to take care of himself, a few days before the passage of the bill had their servants conveyed into Maryland to seek a better market. They were unwilling to sacrifice the few hundreds of dollars difference between the Government compensation and the price in the shambles. One would have thought that the faithful service of years would have plied them to grant the short period of freedom which was now possible, especially as it was a real attachment between the parties—the servants would still remain with them on wages. All the fine pretences and mock philanthropy with which the Northern mind has been soothed were laid aside, and the naked selfishness, the unvarnished meanness, which underlie the whole system were exposed.

Here was a negro woman past the middle age, with two daughters, one just entering womanhood, the other a girl of eleven years. The woman was an excellent servant, had for years acted as housekeeper. The younger daughter, almost white, with a massive and beautifully shaped head, features which seemed modeled from an antique sculpture, already, child as she was, helpful, and skilled in household duties; modest, but with a quietly self-possession, was already worth \$300—so her mistress said. Would it be too much, I thought, for the mistress to grant to the fifty years of faithful service of the mother? Would it be too much for the woman to yield to the womanly instincts in behalf of three young girls, a compensated freedom which should secure them from unlicensed lust, and from the fate of "breeding" for the slave man? Would the paltry hundreds of dollars which might be her gain, outweigh all considerations of justice, of gratitude, and of humanity?

Three or four days before the passage of the emancipation measure, the mother came to my house, bringing a simple token of remembrance, and in tones of despair, told her tale. The same day she and her children were carried into Maryland.

This is an illustration of what happened, with different degrees of aggravation, in many instances. But there were many cases of a different character. The wife of a well-to-do grocer in this city was intending to send her coachman into the country just before the passage of the bill, but one morning he was missing, and remained concealed in the city until it had become a law, when he resumed his duties.

A gentleman in Georgetown, who had a number of valuable "servants," gave them directions one night to get everything in readiness for an early start the next morning, not informing them of their destination, of course. When he called for them in the morning he found they had complied with his orders to be prepared for an early start, but had gone without him. They concealed themselves in the city, with some of the free negroes, until the bill was signed, when they all reappeared at their old quarters, ready for service until the Commissioners should reach their case.

A slave woman had purchased her own freedom and that of a part of her children, but there was a bright boy named Stephen still in the hands of her former mistress. The day of the passage of the bill the mistress saw a man coming up the street, whom she had engaged to inform her of the fact of his passage and to take Stephen into the country before it should be signed. When the bell rang, she told Stephen she would answer it. But he had no other correct idea of what was going on—as slaves often have who listen with apparent stolidity to the conversation of their superiors—and prudently retreated behind a door within earshot of the passage, and heard the announcement, "The Emancipation bill has passed."

He quietly retreated to the back yard, and leaping over the fence betook himself to his mother's, and was speedily secreted at some distance from her, and so remained. His mistress was loud in her demonstration of the "ingratitude" of the "niggers," and their forgetfulness of the kindness and care bestowed upon them. Stephen, with her again now, but he is a slave no longer, thanks to his own quick sense.

FIRST PROPOSITION FOR EMANCIPATION IN THE DISTRICT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

Sir: Under this head I observe a communication in THE TRIBUNE of the 28th of April, in which it is claimed that the first movements in Congress toward emancipation in the District of Columbia were made by Preston King in the House, Sept. 24, 1850, and by John P. Hale in the Senate, June 23, 1848, the latter introducing a resolution instructing the Committee on the District of Columbia to report a bill for the abolition of slavery in said District.

Your correspondent is in error: More than ten years prior to the resolution of Mr. Hale, the question was brought before the House by William Slade, of Vermont.

On the 18th of December, 1837, Mr. Slade presented to the House petitions upon the subject, and on the 29th he "moved to refer the memorials to a Select Committee, with instructions to report a bill providing for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia." (See Vol. 13, Benton's Abridgment of Debates in Congress, p. 564.)

This motion, the first as I believe ever made upon the subject, produced great excitement among the Southern members. "Mr. Rhet invited the entire delegations from all the Slave States to retire from the Hall forthwith, and meet in the Committee Room of the District of Columbia."

This meeting was had after the adjournment, and as the result, the House next day passed a resolution "that all petitions and memorials touching the abolition of slavery, or the buying, selling, or transferring of slaves in any State, District, or Territory of the United States, be laid on the table without being debated, printed, read, or referred, and that no further action shall be had thereon."

That was in 1839. To-day the Flag of Freedom waves over the District of Columbia.

Let us not be too hasty in our conclusions, and the hour of initiating this movement in Congress belongs, as I believe, to the late Gov. Slade of Vermont.

CLEVELAND, 4th April 21, 1862.

THE BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE AND SLAVERY.

ing the subject of Slavery. They go to the root of the matter, and show that this body of Christians are thoroughly imbued with the great principles of human freedom:

Resolved, 1. That we distinctly recognize the hand of God in ending public opinion in Church and State on the great question.

2. That as ministers of the Gospel we will not cease our efforts for the overthrow and utter suppression of American Slavery until every man, woman, and child standing on American soil, be free from the pollution of those rights deeded for them by their Creator.

3. That while we are thankful to God for the decided advantage made by our last General Conference in Anti-Slavery legislation, we are of the opinion that much remains to be done in this direction, and that as members of the Black River Conference we will continue to labor to secure the enactment of such rules as shall speedily remove from our Church the stigma of having a slaveholder within its pale.

4. That while we are the avowed opponents of the amalgamation of the races, we nevertheless protest against any system of legislation in the church or nation which denies to one race those privileges, civil and religious, enjoyed by the other.

5. That in our prayers to the throne of grace and in our sacred and other ministerial labors we will remember those that are in bonds as being bound with them.

FROM MISSOURI.

St. Louis no longer a Military Center—Release of Col. Jennison on Parole—Sympathy of St. Louisans while in Prison—Local Politics growing interesting—Frank Blair and Emancipation—Moral Matters—War among the Doctors.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ST. LOUIS, April 27, 1862.

The interest in this city as the center of military movements has sensibly lessened since Gen. Halleck's departure. Instead of being the headquarters of the Western Department, St. Louis has dwindled into the insignificance of a mere depot for Quartermaster's and Commissary's stores. But there is yet something to keep up the interest, and even the poor compliment of being the rendezvous for troops still pouring out from the North-West, previous to their final departure for the seat of active operations, is not unworthy of notice. All the regiments which pass through here complete their equipment before leaving, and to witness daily the arrival and departure of squads, companies, and regiments, is convincing proof that the North-West is in earnest in assisting to put down the rebellion. Minnesota has just contributed her fourth regiment of infantry, and the arrivals from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois are sufficiently numerous to make it worth while to withhold the particulars for fear of the displeasure of the Secretary of War.

Col. Jennison's case remains in *status quo*, although the Colonel himself has been released from the military prison on giving a bond of \$20,000 to remain inside the city limits and report every morning at 10 o'clock at the Provost-Marshal-General's office. It is impossible to tell who is responsible for this state of affairs. He was released on Friday, and previous to that day he was called on by hundreds daily, who assured him of their sympathy. The loyal Germans were particularly attentive to his physical comforts, and brought him the rarest delicacies and the choicest viands that the market affords. Money was proffered in abundance, and the heart of the German population of this city was shown to be in the right place.

Local politics are assuming an interesting shape. The chief contest will be upon members of the Legislature and member of Congress, and the issue will be Emancipation with Expiration, and Emancipation without Expiration. The Secessionists remain quiet, and the old Sham Democracy will egg on the different factions of the Emancipationists in hopes of slipping a semi-Secessionist into the seat now held by Frank Blair. The late demonstration by Blair in favor of colonization, as a condition precedent to emancipation, has lost him the entire German vote, while his course against Fremont has done him great injury with another class. The grand contest will be to commit the Republicans of St. Louis to the Blair doctrine or its opposite. The adverse party is gradually combining in favor of R. Gratz Brown, the old-line Free-Soil Benton Democrat, who wrote Blair into political fame, while editor of THE DEMOCRAT a few years ago. Mr. Brown has written a strong emancipation letter, in which he scorns the idea of colonization with force and ability. This letter has made him the representative man against Blair and against the Blair doctrine. The Germans support Brown, and their influence in the Republican party may give him the nomination for Congress. It is currently rumored that a new paper will be started here next month to advocate Mr. Blair's cause, inasmuch as his old organ, THE DEMOCRAT, is now arrayed against him.

A war of the Homeopathic doctors against the Allopaths is impending, in consequence of the refusal of the Western Sanitary Commission to accept the physicians of the former school, in response to their advertisement for "Fifty Surgeons and Physicians." Several of the best Homeopaths in the city volunteered their services and were refused, whereupon an appeal to the public is made to reform the alleged evil. Many instances are given where patients in the Hospital, both sick and wounded, have been refused the attendance of Homeopathic physicians, and informed that they must accept the old practice or do without any treatment whatever. These differences and prejudices should be settled in Washington by one stroke of the Secretary of War's pen.

Writing of hospitals reminds me that large accommodations are being provided here for taking care of at least 5,000 sick and wounded through the Summer. The Jefferson barracks are being fitted up to receive the 1,500 patients driven from Mound City by high water. The immense amphitheater building inside the fair grounds, which measures upward of 500 feet in diameter, is at present being refitted over on the inside for the purpose of being converted into a Summer hospital for convalescent patients from other hospitals. It will accommodate at least 3,000, and may be made to accommodate more. The Sanitary Commission have done wonders in providing floating hospitals and other conveniences for removing the sick and wounded from the South, and are deserving of the confidence of their Eastern friends.

The Secession rumors of Union reversals all the way from Yorktown to Fort Mifflin have been thicker than ever during the last week, and are laughed at by Unionists.

PRESENTATION TO GENERAL SIGEL.

From THE BUREAU OF THE TRIBUNE.

A deputation of ladies met at the residence of Mr. Gen. Franz Sigel, on Grand street, on Saturday evening, 26th inst., and in behalf of the "American Union Ladies of St. Louis," presented him with a beautiful silver goblet, containing the following inscription:

Presented to MAJOR-GENERAL FRANZ SIGEL, BY THE AMERICAN UNION LADIES OF ST. LOUIS, AS A token of their appreciation of his patriotic devotion to his country and to the cause of Freedom.

the Hugenots, the Puritans, and the followers of Penn. from a foreign land, but I assure you that my heart and my soul is with this republic. I am bound to this country with my whole life, because I am bound to the principles which I have striven and fought from the time I was a child to see that the sacred soil of Missouri be the soil of freedom. I am bound to the sacred soil of Missouri by the ties of friendship, and I will cherish them in my heart to my last day.

I have sometimes thought that the tokens of regard here were of the heart; but I also know that there is something in the eye of the people, in the tone of their voice, in the character of their action, in the way they play with the blood of men to gratify his own ambition. I recognize in you the voice of the people. I really think that you are sometimes of the people, and I would like to see you from my very heart for your kindness and esteem.

This goblet, an earnest in its workmanship, and so dear to me as I shall be as happy as to be restored; and wherever my life will touch this silver vessel, I will remember that "your love is never drunk too much."

COMMANDER HENRY K. THATCHER.

To the Editor of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

Sir: I have this evening received a letter giving me the gratifying assurance that an error was unintentionally made by a reporter of the press, in placing the name of Commander Thatcher on the list of officers who left the United States Navy and joined that of the insurgents, a copy of which letter I forward you, and ask, as a matter of justice to him and his numerous friends, that it be published in THE TRIBUNE.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, GEO. A. THATCHER.

Bangor, Me., April 24, 1862.

NATY DEPARTMENT, April 19, 1862.

Sir: I have received your communication of the 11th instant in reference to a list said to have been published in THE TRIBUNE at New-York, on the 2d of March last, purporting to be the names of the officers who deserted the Navy of the United States and joined the navy of the insurgents, which list contains the name of Commander Henry K. Thatcher. Great injustice was unintentionally done by a reporter of the press in placing the name of Commander Thatcher on the list, and publishing him as a deserter to the Rebel cause. A correction of the error was made immediately on its being discovered by the newspaper in Washington which was the first to publish it.

The Department, however, takes great pleasure in stating to you that the name of Commander Thatcher is not in the original list captured at Komack, and in saying further that he is at present upholding the honor and flag of his country, and in command of the United States sloop-of-war Constitution in the Mediterranean.

I am respectfully your obedient servant, GIDEON WELLES.

GEO. A. THATCHER, Bangor, Maine.

SHORTEST ROAD TO CALIFORNIA.—Emigrants from the States, bound to Canyon Valley and California, are probably not aware that their shortest and best road is by the way of Denver. Starting from any point on the Missouri, they can save full two hundred miles travel, by following up the South Platte and through the mountains by the route surveyed by Mr. Berthoud last season. Their course of travel is then almost direct, cutting off the great elbow made by the old road in its detour northward, to pass through the South Pass. This road is much shorter than the old one, being well supplied with wood, water, and grass. Here the Rocky Mountain region is fertile. On the North Platte and in the region of the South Pass it is barren, almost devoid of timber, and recently supplied with grass.

Loaded wagons can now pass without difficulty from Denver to Salt Lake City, and the traveler passes through the principal cities and the heart of the Pike's Peak mining region. Remember it, travelers from the States, that if you do not want to travel by Pike's Peak, that you can take a look at the country and at the same time save over two hundred miles' travel in your journey to California by coming by Denver.

[Denver (Colorado) News, April 16.]

IMPROVEMENTS IN GRAIN STORAGE AT CHICAGO.—The Board of Trade of Chicago have adopted some new and wholesome rules for improvement in grain storage, designed to check some of the outrageous chicanery that has been practiced in that city